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# Wisdom, Kindness and Appreciation.

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**T**HE most precious attribute in man is wisdom or common sense. Brilliancy pales before it. In every walk of life there is brought home to us every day the value of wisdom. There are people in the world who outstrip their neighbors and competitors in every rivalry. They look at things with keener appreciation; they know things better and

as it were by instinct. These people are generally credited with wisdom. They usually have knowledge. If an invention of striking value comes out they secure it. If a book of surpassing merit is issued they buy it, and the sum of it all is, these people get ahead and the others don't know why. The way the knowing ones are buying the portfolios of "WILD FLOWERS OF AMERICA" is the latest instance, striking and convincing. These people know just as well as if they saw the tangible evidence that they will never have an opportunity to get these portfolios at the nominal figure for which they are now securing them, and the consequence is the wise of both sexes and all ages who know about them are buying them. That's Wisdom.

## KINDNESS.

Next to Wisdom and a beautiful companion for it—is Kindness. There are tens of thousands who have not had the opportunity of seeing the announcements of the Wild Flower portfolios, and would have missed them

entirely had it not been for the KINDNESS of others telling and writing to friends, informing them how and where they can get them. Thousands of these are cutting out coupons and sending them to friends. Isn't this KINDNESS? It is kindness that will be appreciated more and more as the years roll by, when many a man and woman will be heard to say, "I would not have had the 'Wild Flowers of America' if it had not been for my good friend ——." Kindness endureth. Perhaps some others will let their friends know that for a short, short time back numbers of "Wild Flower" portfolios may be procured through the same medium.

## APPRECIATION.

Here follow a few extracts from letters received giving evidence of appreciation. And so this great work is passing on, and millions will lament the lost opportunity when it is too late.

"Wild Flowers of America" fill a long-felt want.

**Amos J. Cummings,**

*U. S. Congressman.*

"Wild Flowers of America" carried out with the enthusiasm of a botanist and the skill of an artist.

**Professor W. Wilson,**

*Chairman U. S. Committee Ways and Means.*

Nothing that has come under my notice is to be compared with the "Wild Flowers of America," by G. H. Buek & Co.

**W. T. Harris,**

*Chairman U. S. Bureau Education, Washington.*

"Wild Flowers of America" for the first time places the native flowers of the United States within the reach of every man, woman and child of our land.

**Amos J. Cummings.**

Regarding "Wild Flowers of America," by G. H. Buek & Co., while there are a number of works in which a few of our more conspicuous plants are figured, there is none so far as I know that is so exhaustive as this.

**Professor F. H. Knowlton,**

*Department of Botany, Smithsonian Institution, Washington.*

"Wild Flowers of America," by G. H. Buek & Co., is a happy idea.

**Professor W. Wilson,**

*Chairman U. S. Committee Ways and Means, Washington.*





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TRUMPET FLOWER.  
TECOMA RADICANS.  
JULY—AUGUST.



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SCARLET-FRUITED HAWTHORN.  
CRATÆGUS COCCINEA.  
MAY.



PLATE 257.

TRUMPET FLOWER. *TECOMA RADICANS*. (BIGNONIA FAMILY.)

*Stem somewhat woody, climbing by rootlets; leaves opposite, pinnately compound; leaflets broadly ovate, petioled, coarsely dentate, acute at apex; flowers in dense terminal corymbs; calyx small, five-toothed; corolla large, funnel-shaped, five-lobed, slightly two-lipped; stamens included; fruit a narrow, two-celled capsule.*



IDSUMMER'S approach is heralded by a glorious array of beautiful flowers. Just as a charming song is encored and repeated, so we are favored with an echo of Spring in the blossoms of late June and early July. Then it is that the fragrant Elder spreads its wide, flat clusters of tiny white saucer-shaped flowers in hedges and along brooks. Then the Wild-roses, delicate Hglahtine and showy Carolina Rose, and the glorious climbing Prairie Rose, make glad the heart with their dainty five-petalled blossoms. Then the wild Morning-glory decks barren fields with her tribute of white, purple-hearted chalices, fading all too soon.

"White they with grief that their short day is done."

Then the superb Trumpet Creeper, undisputed queen among our native climbers, hangs her great festoons of scarlet trumpets from trees and fence-posts.

Few plants that grow so far northward suggest more vividly the luxuriant vegetation of the tropics. This is not strange, as the Trumpet Creeper belongs to a family almost exclusively tropical. The handsome Catalpa and the beautiful Cross Vine of the South, *Bignonia Capreolata*, are among the North American plants of the Bignonia Family that have emigrated farthest from their home near the equator.

*Tecoma Radicans* is found from Pennsylvania, straying northward and south, to Florida and Texas. It is much more common in the valleys of the Mississippi and its tributaries than in the East.

PLATE 258.

SCARLET-FRUITED HAWTHORN. *CRATÆGUS COCCINEA*. (ROSE FAMILY.)

*Much branched shrub with red-brown bark; stems furnished with stout, straight or slightly recurved thorns; leaves long petioled, broadly ovate to almost orbicular, truncate or subcordate at base, sharply doubly-serrate; flowers numerous in corymbs terminating the twigs; petals five, semi-orbicular, white; fruit a scarlet, few seeded drupe.*

"The hawthorn I will pu', wi' its locks o' siller grey,  
Where, like an aged man, it stands at break o' day,  
But the songster's nest within the bush I winna tak' away;  
And a' to be a posie to my ain dear May."—BURNS.



THESE pretty lines of Burns are but a few among the hundreds sung in praise of the English Hawthorn—the "May" that decks the hedges of the old island,

"White with blossoms honey-sweet,"

in the bright, joyous English spring-time. All the poets have united to sing the praises of the Hawthorn, even as they have joined in celebrating the beauties of the Rose. It has come to be the emblem of "hope," just as the Puritan Fathers took the *Epigæa*, upon which they bestowed the familiar name of "Mayflower," as the symbol of promise.

The English Hawthorn is sparingly, very sparingly, naturalized in some of our Eastern districts, where it was first planted in hedge-rows. We have several native species of *Cratægus*, none as handsome, nor as well known, as the European *Cratægus Oxyacantha*. Of our native species, the Scarlet-fruited Hawthorn, *Cratægus Coccinea*, is the most familiar. It is a low, straggling shrub, with large thorns, clustered white flowers and bright red berries. The thorns on all this tribe of plants are stunted and hardened branches; they serve to discourage browsing on the part of hungry cattle, and aptly illustrate how well Nature's works can be contrived "a double debt to pay."



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 YELLOW-RATTLE.  
 RHINANTHUS CRISTA-GALLI.  
 JULY.



— 260 —  
 GAURA LINDHEIMERI.  
 (EVENING PRIMROSE FAMILY.)  
 AUGUST.



PLATE 259.

YELLOW RATTLE. RHINANTHUS CRISTA-GALLI. (FIGWORT FAMILY.)

*Annual; stem erect, branched above, four-angled, smooth or slightly pubescent; leaves oblong-lanceolate, sharply serrate, opposite, sessile, veiny; inflorescence a one-sided, leafy spike; calyx four-toothed, membranaceous, greatly enlarged after flowering; corolla two-lipped, upper lip galeate; capsule flattened, enclosed in the fruiting calyx; seeds winged.*



ONE of the root-parasitic group of the Figwort Family is the Yellow Rattle, or Common Rattle, a native of Europe and Russian Asia, and also of North America. *Rhinanthus Crista-Galli* is a much rarer plant in America than in the Old World, occurring sparingly along the coast and in the mountains of Northern New England and Eastern Canada, thence extending to the north shore of Lake Superior and northwestward. This geographic distribution of the *Rhinanthus* is good evidence of its being truly native, although it may have been introduced at some points along the coast. In Great Britain and other European countries, where it is much more common than here, it often causes great loss by its habit of preying on other plants.

It is an erect plant, with simple stem, opposite leaves, and oddly irregular flowers in a one-sided spike. It is not unlike the Red Rattle, *Pedicularis Palustris*, in general appearance. The name *Rhinanthus* means "Nose-flower," because the upper lip of the corolla of some species once placed in this genus is beaked. The specific name, "*Crista-galli*," means "Cock's-comb," perhaps in reference to the shape of the curiously inflated fruiting calyx. The name Yellow Rattle, like that of the Red Rattle, is due to the noise of the ripe seeds in the pod.

PLATE 260.

GAURA LINDHEIMERI. (EVENING-PRIMROSE FAMILY.)

*Perennial; stem hirsute, erect, with erect branches; leaves alternate, lowest lyrate-pinnatifid, uppermost almost entire; flowers in bracted, terminal racemes; calyx-tube much prolonged beyond the sessile ovary, four-lobed; petals four, short-clawed, placed on the upper side of the flower; stamens eight; ovary almost smooth, four-angled, the faces winged.*

"I feel a newer life in every gale;  
The winds that fan the flowers,  
And with their welcome breathings fill the sail,  
Tell of serener hours—  
Of hours that glide unfelt away  
Beneath the sky of May.

"The spirit of the gentle south-wind calls  
From his blue throne of air,  
And where his whispering voice in music falls,  
Beauty is budding there;  
The bright ones of the valley break  
Their slumbers, and awake."—J. G. PERCIVAL.



THIS handsome plant is a native of the prairies of Texas, that paradise of beautiful flowers. It was first found by one of the most indefatigable of the collectors who early traveled through the Great West and labored to bring its flora to knowledge. This was F. Lindheimer, who collected chiefly in the Lone Star State. His spoils were worked up by Dr. Engelmann and Dr. Gray, and the result was published under the name of "*Plantæ Lindheimerianæ*." The species of *Gaura* that bears Lindheimer's name was first found by him near Houston, Texas. It is a tall plant, sometimes growing to the height of six feet. The odd, one-sided flowers open successively in April and May. They are large for the genus, the petals pure white at first, but becoming pink as they fade, as do so many white and yellow-flowered plants of this family.

There are quite a number of species of *Gaura* in North America, all of them with pretty, slightly irregular blossoms. *Gaura Biennis*, the most common species east of the Mississippi, has pink flowers. *Gaura Coccinea*, a native of the Western prairies and mountains, is remarkable for the color of the small blossoms. Rose-colored at first, they deepen to a vivid scarlet with age.



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**BEECH DROPS.**  
*EPIPHEGUS VIRGINIANA.*  
 AUGUST—OCTOBER.



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**BROAD-LEAVED GOLDEN-ROD.**  
*SOLIDAGO FLEXICAULUS.*  
 JULY.



PLATE 261.

BEECH-DROPS. EPIPHEGUS VIRGINIANA. (BROOM-RAPE FAMILY.)

*Whole plant brownish-purple; roots fibrous, thickened, forming a tangled ball; stems erect, much branched, brittle, bearing numerous small scale-like leaves; flowers in the axils of the leaves, forming slender racemes; upper flowers sterile, showy, the lower, fertile, never opening; corolla of sterile flowers tubular, four-toothed.*



MEMBER of the Broom-rape Family, closely allied to the small one-flowered Cancer-root, is the Beech-drops, Epiphegus. While the Aphyllon attaches its roots to those of Asters and Golden-rods, Epiphegus aims at nobler prey, drawing its sustenance from the root fibres of the stately Beech. In late summer and autumn—September and October are its favorite months—this quaint parasite may be found at the foot of every Beech-tree, enjoying the hospitable shade while it cunningly robs its host. A small plant it is. The stems are rather brittle, much branched. The color of the whole plant is a dull purple-brown, so that the living specimens are hardly to be distinguished, at first glance, from the dead plants usually found beside them. The flowers at the summit of the stem are rather large and showy, dull crimson and white in color. Like the gay, bright-colored flowers of the Jewel-weed, they rarely produce seed. That is left to the inconspicuous Cinderellas—to the bud-like blossoms lower on the stem—not permitted to win admiration in upper air. These fertile blossoms do not open at all, fertilization taking place in the bud.

Epiphegus Virginiana is a not uncommon plant in Eastern North America. It is found in Canada, and thence south to Florida and westward to Wisconsin and Arkansas.

PLATE 262.

BROAD-LEAVED GOLDEN-ROD, SOLIDAGO FLEXICAULIS (LATIFOLIA). (SUNFLOWER FAMILY.)

*Plant smooth or slightly pubescent; stem erect, one to four feet high, branching toward the summit, flexuose; leaves alternate on margined petioles; ovate, acuminate at both ends, coarsely doubly-serrate; heads in axillary clusters, forming a leafy terminal panicle, disk-flowers few, ray-flowers three or four.*

"Grows a weed

More richly here beside our mellow seas  
That is the autumn's harbinger and pride.  
When fades the cardinal-flower, whose red-heart bloom  
Glows like a living coal upon the green  
Of the midsummer meadows, then how bright,  
How deepning bright like mounting flame doth burn  
The Golden-rod upon a thousand hills.  
This is the Autumn's flower, and to my soul

A token fresh of beauty and of life,  
And life's supreme delight."—RICHARD WATSON GILDER.

"And the Golden-rod lights slowly  
Its torch for the Autumn blaze."—CELIA THAXTER.

"Along the roadside, like the flowers of gold  
That tawny Incas for their gardens wrought,  
Heavy with sunshine droops the Golden-rod."—WHITTIER.



E, in this country, have a great love for the Golden-rods. Although there are a few species in Europe and in other parts of the world, the genus Solidago reaches its highest development in North America. The Golden-rods are among the most familiar wild flowers of this teeming continent. Poets on the western side of the Atlantic, ceasing to live on the memory of Poppy and Daisy and Hawthorn, have begun to realize that America has a few plants of her own and sing with one accord the beauties of these glorious autumn flowers.

Not so showy as the common Solidago Canadensis of fields and roadsides, but more delicately handsome, are several woodland species of the Eastern States and Canada. Easily chief among these is the Broad-leaved Golden-rod. A denizen of rich hillside woods, mostly along water courses, this fine Solidago is abundant northward, but in the South is confined to the neighborhood of the mountains. It blossoms in September and October.





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 CYRILLA RACEMIFLORA.  
 (CYRILLA FAMILY.)



— 264 —  
 COMMON PASSION-FLOWER.  
 PASSIFLORA INCARNATA.  
 JULY—AUGUST.



PLATE 263.

CYRILLA RACEMIFLORA. (CYRILLA FAMILY.)

*Shrub or small tree with grayish bark; leaves clustered at the ends of the branchlets, obovate or oblanceolate, entire, smooth, thick, veiny; flowers small in long slender racemes clustered at the base of the shoots of the season; petals five, spreading, white; fruit a two-celled drupe.*

"A thousand flowers,  
By the roadside and borders of the swamp,  
Nod gaily to each other; glossy leaves  
Are twinkling in the sun, as if the dew  
Were on them yet, and silver waters break  
Into small waves, and sparkle as they come."—BRYANT.



THE shallow Sphagnum swamps that green the pine-barren region along the Atlantic and the Gulf in the Southeastern States, are like oases in the desert. Wherever there is a slight hollow below the monotonous level of this region, moisture gathers and a veritable flower-garden springs up. There are not a few beautiful flowers in the dry soil of the barrens. But in the swamps, the profusion of vegetable wealth rivals that of the tropics. Not to speak of Orchids, Pitcher-plants and Polygalas, there is a great variety of handsome flowering shrubs. The Viscid Azalea, with its masses of pink-white, fragrant flowers, the brilliant Pinckneya, with its showy floral leaves, the delicate drooping white of the Fringe-tree or Old Man's Beard, the handsome foliage and graceful rose-colored clusters of the Buckwheat Tree, Cliftonia—all flourish here. Closely allied to the Buckwheat Tree is Cyrilla, a shrub or small tree common along the banks of streams, and at the edge of pine-barren ponds, from Virginia to Florida and westward along the Gulf. This plant is elegantly beautiful. The foliage is dark green, the leaves thick and with a rich glossiness on the upper surface. The small white flowers are clustered in slender, rigid racemes at the base of the young twigs of the season. Instead of gracefully drooping, they stand boldly out, stiff and unbending, which gives an odd look to the plant in flower or fruit.

PLATE 264.

COMMON PASSION-FLOWER. PASSIFLORA INCARNATA. (PASSION-FLOWER FAMILY.)

*Pubescent or glabrate; stem flexuose, reclining on the ground or climbing by long, stout, axillary tendrils; leaves alternate, palmately three-lobed, lobes rhombic-ovate, serrate, acute; flowers large, on jointed axillary peduncles; sepals five, united below, with a crown of purple fringes on the throat; petals five, white; filaments united into a tube enclosing the stalk of the ovary.*

"Art thou a type of beauty, or of power,  
Of sweet enjoyment, or disastrous sin?  
For each thy name denoteth, Passion-flower!  
Oh no! thy pure corolla's depth within  
We trace a holier symbol; yea, a sign  
'Twixt God and man; a record of that hour  
When the expiatory act divine

Cancelled that curse which was our mortal dower.  
It is the Cross! Never hath Psalmist's tongue  
Fittier of hope to human frailty sung  
Than this mute teacher in a floret's breast,  
A star of guidance the wild woods among,  
A page with more than lettered love imprest,  
A beacon to the havens of the blest."—SIR AUBREY DE VERE.



ING Henry IV, contemplating a crusade, speaks, through the lips of Shakespeare, of

"Those blessed feet,  
Which fourteen hundred years ago were nail'd  
For our advantage on the bitter cross."

The thought of the monarch returns in the singular outlines of the Passion-flower, its stamens, pistils and crown of fringe, have for centuries recalled the cross, the nails, the crown of thorns of Calvary. Hence the Italian name, "flor della passione." Linnæus transformed this into Passiflora, "flower of the passion." Mostly natives of America, especially South America, a few species occur in Southern Asia and in Australia. They were early introduced into Europe, especially Passiflora Cærulea, the most common species in cultivation.

Of the several species of Passion-flower that occur in North America, the beautiful Passiflora Incarnata is the best known. The fruit is a large berry that turns yellow when mature. The white pulp is rather sweetish, but of a flavor not relished by most people. It is sometimes eaten in the South, where it is known as "Maypops."



PLATE 265.

AMERICAN IPECAC. PORTERANTHUS (GILLENIA) STIPULACEUS. (ROSE FAMILY.)

*Stem erect, slightly pubescent, branching at summit, very leafy; leaves alternate, on very short petioles, trifoliate or deeply three-lobed, stipules large, clasping, deeply incised; leaflets lanceolate-oblong, sharply serrate, pale and pubescent beneath; flowers in a corymbose inflorescence; petals five, white or rose-color.*

"When spring came on with bud and bell,  
Among these rocks did I  
Before you hang my wreaths to tell  
That gentle days were nigh!  
And in the sultry summer hours  
I sheltered you with leaves and flowers."—WORDSWORTH.



HUNDRED to the many plants of surpassing beauty that belong to the Rose Family, none are handsomer than those of the Spiræa tribe. The Spiræas themselves, Meadow-sweet and Hardhack and the lovely May-wreath of our gardens, are of high distinction among flowers. The Nine-bark, an elegant little shrub of our river-cliffs, with dark green foliage and clusters of white flowers, followed by bunches of curious purplish pods, sustains the family reputation.

Closely allied to Spiræa is the genus Porteranthus, of which there are two very pretty species in Eastern North America. One, Porteranthus Trifoliatus, grows in woods along the Appalachian mountains, and westward to Missouri. The other, the American Ipecac of the "herb-doctors," is found in Western New York, in Ontario, and thence southwestward to Alabama and Louisiana, and as far west as Kansas, flowering in early summer. It is a taller and stricter plant than the other, with leaves of a lighter green and pretty white flowers, the petals usually flushed with pink on the outer surface. It prefers drier and more open woods than those inhabited by its sister species.

PLATE 266.

LUNGWORT, VIRGINIA COWSLIP. MERTENSIA VIRGINICA. (BORAGE FAMILY.)

*Whole plant smooth, slightly glaucous; stem simple, erect, leafy; leaves alternate, the lower long-petioled, oblong or obovate, obtuse at apex, radical six or eight inches long; flowers in corymbs forming a terminal panicle; calyx small, five-parted; corolla trumpet-shaped, about one inch in length.*

"Blue! 'Tis the life of heaven—the domain  
Of Cynthia,—the wide palace of the sun—  
The tent of Hesperus, and all his train—  
The bosomer of clouds, gold, grey, and dun.  
Blue! 'Tis the life of waters—ocean  
And all its vassal streams: pools numberless  
May rage, and foam, and fret, but never can

Subside, if not to dark-blue nativeness.  
Blue! gentle cousin of the forest green,  
Married to green in all the sweetest flowers—  
Forget-me-not, the blue-bell, and that queen  
Of secrecy, the violet—what strange powers  
Hast thou, as a mere shadow! But how great,  
When in an Eye thou art alive with fate!"—JOHN KEATS.



LUNGWORT and Virginia Cowslip are among the popular names borne in the books by this lovely plant. A third name is much more commonly applied to it, especially in the Ohio Valley and in the South—"Bluebells." A number of American plants have usurped this English name of the European Scilla Nutans (Hyacinthus Non-scriptus), but none is more worthy of the pretty title than this Mertensia. It has been called "Virginia Cowslip," doubtless because of the leaves, which are somewhat like those of the true Cowslip.

There is no plant more elegant than the Mertensia Virginica. Belonging to a family of coarse, rough-hairy weed-like plants, it would be considered one of the handsomest of its tribe if it belonged to the Primroses or the Gentians. Perfectly smooth, with leaves of a rich, sappy green, the vegetative part of the plant is a meet setting for the superb flowers. These are trumpet-shaped, with a somewhat flaring border, not more than an inch long. Although usually described as blue in color, they are often flesh-pink at first, changing to a vivid blue. Often the two colors with intermediate purples may be seen in the same cluster. Mertensia Virginica extends from the Valley of the St. Lawrence to Minnesota and South Carolina.



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 AMERICAN IPECAC.  
 PORTERANTHUS STIPULACEUS.



— 266 —  
 LUNGWORT, VIRGINIA COWSLIP.  
 MERTENSIA VIRGINICA.  
 MAY.



PLATE 267.

TALL BLACKBERRY. RUBUS VILLOSUS. (ROSE FAMILY.)

*Shrub; stems erect or reclining, bearing strong, more or less recurved prickles; leaves glandular, pubescent below, pinnately trifoliate or palmately quinate, leaflets ovate, acute at apex, sharply double-serrate; flowers long-pedicelled in bracted racemes; petals five, obovate, white; receptacle juicy when mature, bearing several drupe-like achenes, partly united into an oblong black fruit.*

"Still sits the school-house by the road,  
A ragged beggar sunning:  
Around it still the Sumachs grow,  
And Blackberry vines are running."—WHITTIER.



THE Quaker Poet's accurate knowledge of plant-life is not wanting here. How largely do these two shrubs, the Sumach and the Blackberry, contribute to the beauty of our waysides. The Blackberry is always lovely. In early summer, with snow-white or pink-flushed blossoms. Later, in the glory of bright red and then rich black fruit. In autumn, the warm purples and bronzes of the fading leaves are fit companions to the scarlet and vermilion of the Sumach's leaves and berries.

In midsummer what treasures are bestowed on those who go berrying in fence-rows and old fields, where the prickly-armed stems of the Blackberry bend low beneath their weight of luscious fruit! When Strawberries and Raspberries are gone, when apples and peaches and grapes have not yet ripened, then it is Blackberry time.

Besides the common species, there are other edible Blackberries in North America. The Dewberry, low-trailing in sandy fields; the Mountain Blackberry, much like the Tall Blackberry, but with stems almost unarmed and with sweeter fruit. In the pine-barren region of the Southern States the Sand Blackberry is a common species.

PLATE 268.

WOOD NETTLE. LAPORTEA CANADENSIS. (NETTLE FAMILY.)

*Perennial; stem erect, rather weak, armed with stinging hairs; leaves alternate on long, slender, weak petioles, ovate, acuminate at apex, sharply serrate, pubescent beneath, conspicuously veined; flowers monoecious in open cymes, the fertile terminal or in upper leaf-axils, sterile in lower axils.*



PLANTS, like animals, have waste material that is produced in their life-processes. This is either accumulated where it will not be in the way—stored away like old furniture and clothes in a garret—or it is excreted. Most plants that contain alkaloids such as nicotin, cinchonin and strychnin, take the former method of disposing of their ashes and cinders. These often highly poisonous substances are merely the products of combustion in the plant—the indigestible part of its food. In other cases the waste matter is carried to the surface and exudes from glands or other outlets. Nature here, as elsewhere, gives the inventor a hint of value. What at first were waste products have been converted to utmost utility. Exudations sought as food by visiting insects have become the means of perpetuating the race of the plant. And when, as in the case of the Nettles, the excretions are hurtful to insect, beast, and man, they are useful still—they serve as means of stout defence. To recall a word often in the mouth of John Bunyan, how full is nature of "by-ends"! Seldom does she fail to deal a blow with the hilt as well as the edge of her sword.

Not quite so venomous as some of the true Nettles, yet by no means inoffensive, is the Wood Nettle, *Laportea*. This is a common weed in rich shaded soil, with large, thin, dark green leaves. It blossoms in August and September.





— 267 —  
TALL BLACKBERRY.  
*RUBUS VILLOSUS.*  
MAY—JUNE.



— 268 —  
WOOD NETTLE.  
*LAPORTEA CANADENSIS*  
JULY—SEPT.



PLATE 269.

WILD CRANESBILL. GERANIUM MACULATUM. (GERANIUM FAMILY.)

*Stem erect, from a short, thick, reddish rootstock, sparingly hirsute; leaves orbicular or even broader in outline, five-parted, divisions lobed and toothed, the lower on long petioles, the upper on short ones; flowers long-peduncled, rather large; calyx five-cleft; petals five.*

"And genteel Geranium,  
With a leaf for all who come."



LEIGH HUNT, the smooth poet of the town, when he thus wrote doubtless had in mind one of the Pelargoniums that are universally cultivated and that look as if they could have no place in any untamed landscape. Even he, the most artificial of bards, could not describe a wild species as a "genteel Geranium." Certainly his lines tell nothing of the sylvan grace and beauty of our Wild Cranesbill.

We have no wild flower that is more closely identified with the spirit of our forests than this. Wherever it grows abundantly it is an essential feature in the May woods. Unlike its less delicate cousins from South Africa it languishes and seems out of place in cultivation. Its daintily cut leaves and pretty rose-purple flowers lose half their charm when removed from their native setting of virgin soil and forest shade. As Emerson says:

"I thought the sparrow's note from heaven,  
Singing at dawn on the alder bough;  
I brought him home, in his nest, at even;

He sings the song, but it cheers not now,  
For I did not bring home the river and sky;  
He sang to my ear—they sang to my eye."

The Wild Cranesbill is native almost everywhere in Eastern North America. Southward it leaves the hot sandy coastal plain and seeks the cool, rich mountain woods. It begins to blossom in the South in April, continuing in flower until July in the North. It is at its prime in May. The leaves are usually blotched with a lighter shade of green, hence the name "maculatum."

PLATE 270.

SMALL EVENING PRIMROSE. OENOTHERA PUMILA. (EVENING-PRIMROSE FAMILY.)

*Biennial; stem erect, a foot or two high, simple or sparingly branched, short-pubescent; leaves entire, the lower spatulate and tapering into a petiole, the upper oblanceolate to linear and nearly sessile; flowers in leafy terminal spike; petals four, bright yellow; capsule club-shaped, four-angled.*

"Not all the sensuousness of melting sound  
Can move our being as sweet fragrances  
Steal with insinuation delicate  
Into the mind. The lute's low melody  
Plaintive as love; the organ's reverent tone;  
The horn's inspiring blast; the wild appeal

Of hautboys sentient of all life's deep pain;  
The eager clamor of the drum's fierce beat;  
Touch, thrill, or rouse, yet leave us still ourselves.

All memories, or sad or piercing sweet,  
Come on the wings of fragrance; all desire

Wakes at its bidding with resistless stress;  
Old dreams are in its keeping; youth and love  
Wait on its will, and not the thoughts which serve  
Their sweet behests move with more subtle law,  
Swifter or more mysteriously."

—ARLO BATES.



BESIDES the species of *Oenothera* that open their pale yellow blossoms when the staring sun has set, there are less diffident species that do not shun the solar beam. While the nocturnal *Oenotheras* have pale blossoms that are usually sweetly fragrant,

"Voiceless, yet not unbreathing,"

those that open in the daytime have bright yellow flowers, little if at all odorous. Their brilliancy of hue renders fragrance unnecessary for insect-invitations. These day-flowering species do not merit the name of "Evening Primrose." One of the commonest kinds, *Oenothera Fruticosa*, is known by the name of "Sundrops," which indicates its true habit. One who has seen a field in early summer spangled with the bright yellow blossoms of this plant, will acknowledge that the name is as appropriate as it is pretty.

A species closely allied to the Sundrops, differing in its more slender and less branching habit and in being not so hairy, is *Oenothera Pumila*. This pretty little plant loves dry sandy open soil, where it may revel in the sunlight. It is found from Nova Scotia to New Jersey, and westward to Kansas. The fruit is an odd capsule, club-shaped and four-angled, the angles with a narrow corky wing.





— 269 —  
WILD CRANESBILL.  
*GERANIUM MACULATUM*.  
MAY.



— 270 —  
SMALL EVENING PRIMROSE.  
*OENOTHERA PUMILA*.  
JUNE.



PLATE 271.

SPINY SOW THISTLE. *SONCHUS ASPER*. (SUNFLOWER FAMILY.)

*Stem erect from an annual root, glaucous, channeled; leaves alternate, oblong-obovate in outline, pinnatifid or undivided, irregularly dentate, clasping by an auriculate base, smooth; heads several in a terminal corymb, many flowered; involucre imbricated; flowers yellow; pappus of soft white bristles.*



WITH many another aggressive weed of the same family, Europe has given us the Sow-thistle. This plant is often seen in waste-ground and about dwellings near the seaboard, and is becoming frequent in the West. The Spiny Sow-thistle, *Sonchus Asper*, may be distinguished from the common Sow-thistle, which it much resembles, by the more rigid spiny tips on the teeth of its leaves. It is a coarse plant and unattractive. External beauty is quite lacking to it. The stem is filled with a milky juice, like the Dandelion, the Chicory, and the other members of this tribe of the Sunflowers. Indeed, this character, with that of the flowers being all strap-shaped, would make it seem that those botanists are in the right who regard the Chicory Tribe as a family distinct from the Sunflower.

The heads of the Spiny Sow-thistle are rather small, with pale yellow flowers. These, as in the Hawkweeds, Wild Lettuce and others of the family, open in the early morning, closing in the strong light of mid-day.

Another species, *Sonchus Arvensis*, the Field Sow-thistle, has large heads of handsome orange-yellow flowers. It is a not uncommon plant along hedges and roadsides.

PLATE 272.

EPILOBIUM OBCORDATUM. (EVENING-PRIMROSE FAMILY.)

*Low, perennial; rootstock rather thick, woody, sending out scaly stolons and erect, leafy stems; leaves opposite on short petioles, ovate-oblong, obtuse, obscurely dentate, glaucous; flowers few on rather long, slender axillary peduncles; petals large, obcordate; pods club-shaped, somewhat longer than the peduncles; seeds covered with minute projections, coma whitish.*

“Like as a child, when frightening sounds molest,  
Clings close and closer to the mother's breast,  
So the loud torrent, and the whirlwind's roar,  
But bind it to its native mountains more.”



BECAUSE many of the *Epilobiums* grow on high mountain peaks, they are low and stunted in their growth. Lack of the rich soil from which plants of a lower altitude construct their tall stems and broad leaves, as well as the necessity of hugging the ground in order to escape the buffetings of the rude mountain wind, prevents them from attaining any great stature. Many genera which are represented at low elevations by tall, stout, juicy-stemmed and broad-leaved species dwindle at Alpine heights into small, half-starved, compact plants, usually growing in close tufts. Albeit, these high mountain plants, having little opportunity to develop up-shooting stems and spreading foliage, usually produce large and showy flowers, so as to attract insects from more genial territory.

While the *Potentillas* of low-country meadows are usually inconspicuous in flowering but thrifty in stem and leafage, the Alpine species star both rock and turf with their bright yellow flower-cups. *Saxifraga Pennsylvanica* of meadows at low elevations has large leaves and sappy stalk, but its flowers are small and green. *Saxifraga Geum* and *Saxifraga Oppositifolia*, Arctic and Alpine plants, are of dwarf habit but have large and brilliant flowers. The *Epilobiums* of comparatively low altitudes with erect, leafy stems, such as *Epilobium Augustifolium* and *Epilobium Latifolium*, give place on the mountain heights to such low, small-leaved species as *Epilobium Obcordatum*.





— 271 —  
 SPINY SOW THISTLE.  
 SONCHUS ASPER.  
 JULY—AUGUST.



— 272 —  
 EPILOBIUM OBCORDATUM.  
 (EVENING PRIMROSE FAMILY.)  
 JULY—AUGUST.

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